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Have you filled out a survey yet?

If not, please fill one
out on-line by visiting:

www.MaineDEP.com

It will help us direct
our future efforts!

Thank You!

Maine Stream Team Program NEWS

Networking, Education, and Stewardship

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2000

Welcome!

Hello there! I hope you enjoy the Maine Stream Team Program's first newsletter! If you currently are a stream team, *thank you* for becoming a part of our Program! Your involvement is part of a larger effort to learn about and protect our local stream resources. If you are not registered as a stream team, but you are interested in what our program is doing, thanks for your interest!

I am proud to announce that there currently are 10 stream teams that have joined the network of the Maine Stream Team Program (MSTP). Also, I am happy to report that Heather Girard, an Americorps Volunteer, has recently joined me as a staff person for the Program. I know that she will be a great addition. Stay tuned for the continued development and expansion of our Program (check out our website by visiting www.MaineDEP.com)! Feel free to contact Heather or myself if you would like some advice, want to update us on what you've been doing with your stream team, or want us to post an upcoming stream- or river-related event on the calendar page of both our website and newsletter. You can call us to find out about the re-



source library that we are building - we are gathering materials that will be helpful to teachers, volunteer monitoring groups, and folks who are interested in all sorts of activities ranging from stream habitat surveys and education days to stream clean-ups and storm drain stenciling projects. I look forward to hearing from you!

Take care,
Jeff

**Check us out on the
Web!
www.MaineDEP.com**

What Is The Maine Stream Team Program and What Is A Stream Team?

The Maine Stream Team Program (MSTP) is a network of people concerned about Maine's streams as well as a clearinghouse of information intended to support stream protection activities. A "stream team" is a group of people who have banded together to promote stewardship of their local stream. There are **no expectations** associated with forming a "stream team" - the activities, your goals, and time spent are determined only by what you want to accomplish. As a stream team member, you can:

- > Learn more about the problems confronting Maine streams and the actions needed to maintain or restore their health
- > Stay up-to-date on stream protection events and opportunities occurring around the state and in your local neighborhood
- > Stay current on resources and training sessions available to help you take care of your favorite stream
- > Let the rest of Maine know what your "stream team" has been or will be doing; and become a member of a larger "TEAM" whose combined efforts will result in improved care of Maine's stream resources.



Stream Walk...Let's get out there!

Do you want to learn more about your local stream? The Maine Stream Team Program is planning to offer **Stream Walk training sessions** next spring, summer, and autumn. Stream Walks are designed to teach folks about basic stream ecology and issues. Next, participants walk part or the entire length of their local streams to investigate whether potential pollution sources and other problems are occurring. Pollution sources may include soil and sediment erosion, stormwater drain inputs, and garbage, to name a few. Other problems that may be found include a lack of streamside vegetation and tree canopy cover (which can lead to streambank instability/erosion and thermal [heat] pollution) and fish migration barriers. Stream Walks are a great way to learn more about your stream, its habitat, and the impacts that land uses can have on it! You can present your findings to your school, neighbors, or community leaders. You can also send your findings to The Maine Stream Team Program where it can be used to prioritize future stream protection efforts.



Calendar



Would you like to use this calendar and/or the website calendar to help spread the word about your events and/or meetings related to streams or rivers? Send the information to the Maine Stream Team Program address on the back of this newsletter. As more information becomes available for the events below, we will post it in future newsletters and on the "news & calendar" page at our website (to get there, start at www.MaineDEP.com).

Event / Description

Date

Location

2001

Project WET

March 29

Standish, Maine

Teacher Training Workshop

The goal of the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) program is to facilitate and promote awareness, appreciation, knowledge, and stewardship of water resources through support of hands-on education. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Roberta Hill at the Portland Water District Sebago Lake Ecology Center (phone: 774-5961 ext.3323; e-mail: hill@pwd.org) before March 1.

Earth Day

April 22

Maine and the rest of the World

Look for activities related to streams and rivers in upcoming newsletters and on our website. (...let us know what you have planned!)

Maine Water Conference

May 3

Augusta Civic Center, Augusta

Meeting about current water issues and research in Maine for water-science professionals and concerned citizens. Contact The MWC Organization Committee at (207)581-3244 or email: WRILINES@maine.edu for more information.

Stream Walk Trainings

May thru November

TBA

Check out the article about Stream Walks in this newsletter.

Maine Clean Water Week

June 3-9

All of Maine

In recognition of Maine Clean Water Week, June 3-9, 2001, the Maine Wastewater Control Association is again sponsoring a poster competition for students in grades 4-8. The theme of the competition is: "What Clean Water Means to ME". Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three entries. In addition, the winning student's school will receive a television monitor, VCR, and educational tapes. Contact the Maine Wastewater Control Association or the Maine Stream Team Program for details. (Posters due March 31, 2001)

Stream Team Day!

June 16

Portland, Maine

Purpose: A gathering to recognize local stream teams, promote networking and information exchange among existing "teams", welcome individuals wanting learn more about the Program, and have fun! Contact the Maine Stream Team Program for more information.

Maine Rivers Conference

September or October

TBA

Conference is intended to promote an understanding of current river issues and facilitate networking among river advocates. For more information, contact Betsy Ham at 622-3101 or bham@nrcm.org.

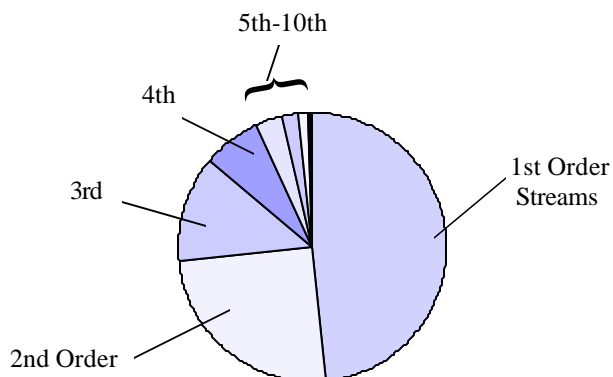
Where will our efforts be focused in 2001?

In 2001, services such as Maine Stream Team Program membership, access to useful information and resources (via the website, telephone, mail, or e-mail), and notification about stream-related events will be available to individuals around the state. However, due to limited resources, activities such as training sessions and program outreach will be focused in the Casco Bay Watershed. The Department plans to expand these activities throughout the state in future years.

Did you know???

"Small streams comprise roughly 85% of the total stream and river mileage in the United States!"

Proportion of stream and river mileage in the US:



Small streams (1st through 3rd order*) generally are short in length and drain relatively small areas. However, they are important because they comprise roughly 85% of the total stream and river mileage in the United States. (*A stream that has no tributaries or branches is defined as a first-order stream. When two first-order streams combine, a second-order stream is created; when two second-order streams combine, a third-order stream is created; and so on.)

Data adapted from "Fluvial Processes in Geomorphology"... (Leopold, Wolman, and Miller {1964}) and Rapid Watershed Planning Handbook (Center for Watershed Protection {1998}).

Contact The MSTP:

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(207)822-6317 (Jeff Varricchione); (207)822-6427 (Heather Girard)



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